

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Sautter
Public Information Officer
(509) 628-8470
(509) 539-0312 (Cell)

Homeowners, renters, and business should consider flood insurance

Richland, Wash.: With snowpacks building in Washington mountains, now is the time for Benton County homeowners, renters, and businesses to consider insuring their property against potential flooding in the coming months. It is important to note that flood insurance policies do not take effect until 30 days after purchase.

"Unfortunately, too many people are unaware that most homeowners' insurance policies do not protect them against flood damage," says Bob Spencer manager of Benton County Emergency Management. "It just makes sense for people to check with their insurance provider and review their coverage and purchase flood insurance now if they haven't already done so,"

Low-cost flood insurance is available under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a federally-backed program managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency .

Under the flood insurance program, coverage may be purchased for most buildings as long as the property is located in a community that participates in the NFIP, as do the communities in Benton County.

Additional information can be found at www.floodsmart.gov or by clicking on the Links button at www.bces.wa.gov

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